

ISSUE

MONTHLY

Environmental
Newsletter for
the City of
Morgan Hill

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The Civic Green

Morgan Hill Max

Do you have materials that you don't need that are just taking up space in your storage?

Do you routinely have to pay to throw away items like packaging, pallets or other materials?

Morgan Hill Max is a new program designed to save you money while stimulating the local economy. It is a free and easy to use service made exclusively for

Morgan Hill businesses that works through a Yahoo Group. If you have unwanted materials, you can post them on the Morgan Hill Max group along with your information and then other local businesses that may be in need of your materials can request them from you. This is a simple solution for



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Water Conservation Actions

"...California is currently in its third year of drought. The Governor proclaimed a drought emergency on February 27th and the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board called for 15% mandatory conservation for the remainder of 2009." [Water Connections 2009]

With California in its third year of drought and ongoing uncertainty about future imported water deliveries to the region, the City has taken significant water conservation measures to stretch our water supplies. To meet the 15% water conservation goal, an ordinance was passed by the City Council to create permanent rules and restrictions on water use. Some of the restrictions include: irrigation watering is only allowed after 5 pm or before 9 am, irrigation watering is limited to 15 minutes a day per irrigation station, hoses must have mandatory self-closing shut-off nozzles when rinsing off sidewalks, vehicles, etc., decorative water fountains must recycle their water, and restaurants and bars can only serve water upon request.

In addition to the new permanent restrictions on water use, the new ordinance establishes "supply shortage" levels that can be

adopted during a time of drought by the City Council. Presently, the City Council has officially declared a Level 1 supply shortage putting the following additional restrictions in effect: irrigation watering is not allowed on Mondays or Thursdays between April and October, washing down driveways is prohibited except to alleviate sanitary or safety hazards, and water leaks and breaks must be fixed within three days. Reaching this 15% conservation goal will help secure water for the future should the drought continue.



getting rid of old or unwanted materials while at the same time, preventing excess waste from filling our landfills. This is a new, free, easy way to recycle, designed exclusively for Morgan Hill businesses. All you need is a free Yahoo email address and then you can join the "morganhillmax" Yahoo group. You can start helping the Morgan Hill Business Community and in return, have the Morgan Hill Business Community help you! So join today to look for available materials you may need and to post information about those materials that you have available. You can visit the City of Morgan Hill Website for more information at www.morganhill.ca.gov and look under Environmental Tips; Business Recycling. You can also send an email to environ@morganhill.ca.gov if you have any questions or need help joining the group.



How to Recycle Unusual Household Items:

• Crayons

What do you do with old crayons? If you're like most people, you just throw your old or broken crayons in the trash where they'll sit in the landfill forever, however, there is a way to recycle crayons. You can send your unwanted crayons in a small box to the recycling program run by Crazy Crayons which recycles your old crayons by melting them down to make new, unique, multi-colored ones. For more information you can visit www.crazycrayons.com.

• Trophies

You can send your old, unwanted trophies to Art. Inc., who will take your trophies and turn them into art that they will give to children's groups or worthy causes like the Special Olympics. Art. Inc is located in San Juan Capistrano, CA. You can visit their website at <http://www.aaronthomas.com>.

• Paint

You can donate your old paint to the closest Habitat for Humanity ReStore (habitat.org) or make an appointment to drop it off at the Santa Clara County HHW Program in San Martin where you can dispose of all harmful waste products, such as paint, antifreeze, household cleaners, all types of batteries and more. You can visit www.hhw.org or call them at 408-299-7300 for more information.



HOME COMPOSTING WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 19th

This free, 2 hour workshop taught by one of Santa Clara County's own Master Composters teaches basic backyard composting techniques in a fun and simple to understand lecture format. It will be held at the Centennial Recreation Center in Activity Room #2 from 10am to 12pm. You must be 18 years or older to participate and preregistration is required. To preregister, call 918-4640. Discover the benefits of gardening using your own compost!



17575 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
778-6480
environ@morganhill.ca.gov
www.morgan-hill.ca.gov

This Month's Green Living Tip:

Reduce your showers to only 5 minutes a day.

The average person showers for 8 to 10 minutes. By showering for only 5 minutes, a couple of minutes less than usual, you can save more than 7,200 gallons of water by the end of the year alone!



The shorter your showers, the less money you will be paying on your water bill...all the while helping to reduce your carbon footprint. So take shorter showers and you will be another step closer to living a happier, greener lifestyle.